



The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programs

The Commission:

- ★ Is a team of 15-25 Governor-appointed Commissioners and 5 staff members
- ★ Is 100 percent federally-funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service
- ★ Grants and oversees the AmeriCorps program in the State of Nebraska
- ★ Coordinates the Citizen Corps program for the State of Nebraska
- ★ Promotes volunteerism and service by
 - ★ Coordinating the First Lady's Awards for Outstanding Community Service
 - ★ Coordinating the Governor's Quarterly Point of Light Awards
 - ★ Promoting national Days of Service (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Join Hands Day, Make a Difference Day, etc)
- ★ Exists by Executive Order

2005 Impact

- ★ 32,987 hours of volunteer service focused on meeting critical local needs
- ★ 2,285 people received case management in health and family matters
- ★ 4,396 volunteers were organized by AmeriCorps members
- ★ 2,036 individuals received GED, ESL, or computer literacy training
- ★ 1,155 K-12 students received assistance with homework & school success
- ★ 426,984 pounds of food & clothing were distributed to 14,618 people
- ★ 2,478 students were mentored and participated in enrichment activities
- ★ 1,003 individuals received training in community emergency response and personal safety risk reduction

2006 Programming

AmeriCorps State

- ★ **SUN AmeriCorps** (Omaha, Lincoln, Ashland, Lexington, Grand Island) members use community-based asset mapping to address express and evident needs in the communities in which they serve
- ★ **CommUNITY** (Lancaster and Saunders Counties) Members serve in teams providing specific support services to low-income clients through Lincoln Action Program, YMCA, Red Cross, and other community organizations.
- ★ **MMI AmeriCorps** (Bellevue, Blair, Columbus, Elkhorn, Fall City, Hastings, Kearney, LaVista, Omaha, Papillion, Plattsmouth, Valley) members, many of whom have disabilities, provide service activities for Nebraska citizens with disabilities and encourage them to also become involved in service.
- ★ **Blue Valley AmeriCorps** (Jefferson and Gage Counties) Members provide after-school programming, homework help, technology training, and mentoring for youth in a Fairbury facility that was rehabilitated by AmeriCorps members.
- ★ **Star City Treasures** (Lincoln) Members conduct literacy, after-school programming and enrichment activities for youth and families through the Lincoln city libraries and Lincoln Parks and Recreation's F Street facility. The program also partners with local cultural centers to collect oral histories.

AmeriCorps National (Nebraska sites)

- ★ Lincoln Action Program's Citizenship AmeriCorps
- ★ Omaha Habitat for Humanity
- ★ UNO's Urban Education Service Corps
- ★ Youth Volunteer Corps of Omaha

Citizen Corps: The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds. The Commission works with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to build Citizen Corps Councils in the state. To date, they exist in the following counties: Adams, Cherry, Douglas, Gage, Hamilton, Keith, Keya Paha, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Perkins, Phelps, Platte, Sarpy, Scottsbluff, and Sheridan.

Leveraging federal dollars for the State of Nebraska

- ★ On average, each AmeriCorps member recruits about 25 local volunteers
- ★ The impact on Nebraska communities is more than double the federal investment
- ★ Since 1994, more than \$10 million has been granted to non-profit, faith-based and community-based organizations to meet community needs